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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held June 14, 2005, the Board took the following action:

76-B

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“Last week, a West Nile infected chicken was found in a flock kept near Division Street by the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. Although the Control District is working in collaboration with the County Public Health office to increase their surveillance in that area, it is essential that the County Public Health office sustain and increase their efforts with the Public Health Speakers Bureau to outreach to city councils, town councils, and other community organizations in the cities and rural areas. This is necessary to educate the community on how to prevent humans and animals from becoming infected with the West Nile Virus.

“Currently, the County’s Public Health Educators and Public Health Nurses have coordinated West Nile Virus education meetings with the town councils in the Leona Valley, Lake Hughes and Lake Elizabeth, Quartz Hill, and the Rural Town Council Association, conducted outreach to seniors groups, and distributed information on West Nile Virus to local horse owners. As more West Nile Virus cases are identified, it is important to pursue every avenue to protect individuals and animals from the virus.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Director of Public Health was directed to:

1. Continue the collaborative efforts for surveillance and mosquito control with the Mosquito and Vector Control Districts, and the rural areas such as the Antelope Valley;

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76-B (Continued)

2. Include educational meetings and outreach activities regarding West Nile Virus to horse owners, animal supply stores, adult day care centers, senior homes and other community groups that can be identified to reinforce the necessary precautions of using mosquito repellents and eliminating water sources that may harbor mosquitoes; and
3. Provide a written activity report to the Board within 30 days.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Public Health
Agricultural Commissioner/Director of
Weights and Measures



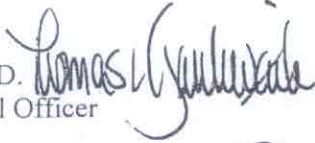
THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer


FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 240-8101

July 7, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

 Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION AND OUTREACH IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY**

On June 14, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing Public Health to 1) continue the collaborative efforts for surveillance and mosquito control with the Mosquito and Vector Control Districts, and the rural areas such as the Antelope Valley; 2) include educational meetings and outreach activities regarding West Nile Virus to horse owners, animal supply stores, adult day care centers, senior homes and other community groups that can be identified; and 3) report to the Board within 30 days.

Attached is the report on our activities to implement the motion. Public Health's Area Health Office for Service Planning Area 1, Acute Communicable Disease Control, and Environmental Health have collaborated on this effort.

We will provide a further status report in 30 days. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

TLG:JEF:dd

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

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Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

**WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY
JULY 7, 2005**

The three Public Health units primarily involved in the prevention of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection are the Service Planning Area (SPA) 1 Health Office, Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC), and Environmental Health. Each unit collaborates to assure that preventive measures, including health education, surveillance, and mosquito abatement, are in place for the residents of Antelope Valley. This work also includes close collaboration with the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Mosquito Surveillance and Control

Environmental Health Staff have been working with the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District to provide mosquito surveillance and control services for areas not previously covered. Coverage was provided last year through a service contract which ended on June 30, 2005. Environmental Health supported and assisted in the District's effort to support a move toward annexation of a large portion of the uncovered area. This included the Quartz Hills, Rancho Vista and parts of Palmdale area. A ballot measure to approve annexation to the District was put before the community and, if passed, would include these areas as part of the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. The results for that recent ballot measure will be tabulated on July 12, 2005.

Other unincorporated areas from Quartz Hills west toward Santa Clarita along Highway 14 were not part of the ballot measure. To provide coverage, the Department has requested a new contract proposal from the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District for one additional year.

Surveillance

Antelope Valley Hospital has agreed to participate in active surveillance for human WNV illness, similar to a project that ACDC established in the San Gabriel Valley in 2004. Each week, ACDC will be contacting the hospital's Infection Control professional to ascertain that all cases of meningitis and encephalitis have been reported and that WNV testing was obtained if another etiology was not confirmed. ACDC will assist with specimen pick-up for testing by the Public Health Laboratory.

Health Education and Outreach

SPA 1 Public Health Nursing has been re-contracting all of the town and city councils to provide an updated version of the Speaker's Bureau WNV prevention program. Four town council presentations have occurred this year, one is scheduled and staff are in communications with seven additional councils. In addition, staff have also contacted all of the local chambers of commerce, senior residential communities, and senior centers, offering to present this program. Three presentations are scheduled at senior or adult day care centers and additional presentations are pending.

We are also enhancing outreach to the ranching and farming community by contacting and distributing WNV prevention education materials through feed and farm supply stores, and working with the real estate community to identify local areas where residents own and board horses. Our Public Health Investigators and Public Health Nurses will conduct this outreach, contacting local homeowners' associations and equestrian/riding clubs to provide educational presentations and offer prevention literature. Environmental Health staff are also distributing WNV literature while conducting routine and complaint inspection activities in the area.